which would be benefited by the proposed road was one lakh of rupees. The road was only 4 miles ong; much land had not to be acquired, as the road would mainly pass through *poramboke* lands and a small road had already been opened by the people; and all that was necessary for the Government to do was to make it cartable and fit for traffic.

Dewan's reply.—The people have now cut a 12 ft. road. The question of taking up similar roads and improving them is under consideration. When the question is settled, this road will also be considered.

61. Deplorable condition of the village roads and traces in the Neyattinkara taluk and some suggestions for their improvement.

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Neyattinkara Taluk) began by saying that he made representations at the seventeenth session of the Assembly in regard to the improvement of some of the important roads and traces in the Neyattinkara taluk, but that the works still remained unattended to. He said that the repairs to Amaravila-Ottassekharamangalam road, and the trace from the 5th mile, M. S. road, to the 3d mile, Balaramapuram-Kattakada road, were urgent.

The first-mentioned road was 9 miles in length and it connected 20 congested villages. It was the only road leading to the town and there were several departmental and aided vernacular schools, two Proverti Cutcherries, one police outpost and two important markets within the area covered by it. Since 3 small bridges and half a dozen culverts had not been constructed, the road was practically useless for a large part of the year. The Member added that it was too much for the people to undertake the work and requested that the Public Works Department might be directed to take it up at an early date. As for the trace referred to, it was only $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles long; the 3rd mile of it passed through paddy fields and joined the Ooruttambalam road; and the trace required widening and improving. At the Valianathara paddy fields which were only 50 yards long the trace ended abruptly and re-appeared from the other end of the *ela*. The Member prayed that the trace itself might be made continuous and converted into a cart road with two culverts at that place. The trace was originally made by the people and taken up by the P. W. D. for maintenance, and, if improved, it would be of considerable benefit to the villagers of Pallichal, Nemam and the adjoining villages.

The Member observed that, in reply to his representation last year, the Dewan had stated that Government would attend to such works as required the services of an expert and pointed out that these two works required the services of an expert. Though orders had been issued for the preparation of estimates for the construction of the necessary bridges and culverts on the Amaravila-Ottassekharamangalam road, it was not known whether anything further had been done in pursuance of those orders.

In conclusion, the Member said that the matter had been repeatedly represented at the previous sessions of the Assembly and that he had only to remind the Government that it could not brook further delay.

Dewan's reply.—The estimate is under preparation in regard to Amaravila-Ottassekharamangalam road. No estimate has yet been prepared in regard to the other road, viz., the Nemam-Ooruttambalam trace. Inasmuch as the trace has been taken over for maintenance, I think the P. W. D. is bound to improve and maintain it. I shall ask the Chief Engineer to have an estimate for the work prepared in the next two months and carry out the work in 1098.

62. Need for improving irrigation in the Neyattinkara Taluk.

Mr. S. J. Williams (Member, Neyattinkara Taluk) stated that, though Neyattinkara is one of the biggest taluks of the State with an area of 233 square miles and very thickly populated, it was one of the most poorly provided in point of irrigation. From the time of the last Settlement up to 1921, the paddy fields underwent a reduction from 14,819 acres to 14,143 acres, 676 acres having evidently become silted

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